

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
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INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
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AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLAS MARSEILLE 0102

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, FR
SUBJECT: FIRST ROUND LEGISLATIVE ELECTION RESULTS AND SECOND
ROUND OUTLOOK

1. SUMMARY

LAST SUNDAY'S VOTING PRODUCED MORE CHURNING THAN TREND. OF
OUR DISTRICT'S FORTY SEATS, 31 SEEM DESTINED TO MAINTAIN
PRESENT PARTISAN ALIGNMENTS, ANOTHER FOUR VERY POSSIBLY
WILL CHANGE HANDS, AND FIVE CONTESTS ARE FAR TOO CLOSE TO
CALL.

2. TAKING A QUICK LOOK AT LEADING PERSONALITIES, THOSE WHO
APPEAR CLEARLY TO HAVE WINNING COMBINATIONS ARE MRG LEADER
FABRE, GASTON DEFFERRE, RPR STALWART LIMOUZY (AT MAZAMET,
TARN) UP AND COMING MAIRE LEOTARD (PR) OF FREJUS, SON OF
AND EARLY GVE SUPPORTER, AND VETERAN TOULON MAIRE ARRECKX
(PR). THE LATTER TWO ARE RUNNING AS DEPUTY FOR THE FIRST
TIME AND IF THEY WIN WILL BE DISPLACING WELL ESTABLISHED
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THOUGH AGING RPR MACHINES. THINGS LOOK LESS ROSY FOR LONG
TIME DEFFERRE CONFEDERQTE EMILE LOO (PS) OF MARSEILLE WHO
SEEMS ABOUT TO LOSE TO A PR CHALLENGER FORMER DEPUTY GAUDIN.
AT PERPIGNAN, MAITRE ALDUY, WHO HAS MOVED FROM THE LEFT TO
THEU UDF, IS FEELING THE EFFECTS OF HIS EARLY SHUNNING
OF THE PROGRAMME COMMUN CONCEPT AND MAY WELL BE DEFEATED BY
THE PC CANDIDATE IF THE LATTER IS ABLE TO MAINTAIN THE FIRST

ROUND LEVEL OF PS VOTER SUPPORT, A QUESTIONABLE FEAT. MAIRE FRECHE (PS) OF MONTPELLIER FINDS HIS PS AND PC SUPPORT TO BE MATCHED BY THAT OF CONTENDING FORMER INDEPENDENT MAIRE DELMAS NOW CARRYING A PR BANNER. AND, AT ORANGE, IT NOW APPEARS THAT LONG TIME RPR SUPPORTER BERARD, WHO LOST HIS MAIRIE TO PC CONTENDER MARIN LAST MARCH, WILL LOSE HIS DEPUTY SEAT TO THE SAME PROTAGONIST IN SUNDAY'S DUEL IN THE MIDI'S SUN.

3. TURNING TO STATISTICS, AMONG THE 31 SEATS SHOWING THE MORE APPARENT OUTCOME, 24 WENT INTO THE FIRST ROUND ON THE LEFT AND 7 ON THE RIGHT. IF FIRST ROUND RESULTS CONTINUE INTO THE SECOND ROUND, THIS GROUP WILL EMERGE HAVING THE SAME DISTRIBUTION BUT WITH MILD INTRAMURAL SHIFTS OF TWO SEATS FROM THE PS TO THE PC AND TWO FROM THE RPR TO THE PR.

4. FOR FOUR OTHER SEATS THE OUTCOME IS MUCH LESS VISIBLE. ONE IS THAT OF EMILE LOO (PS) DESCRIBED PARA 2 WHO WE THINK WILL LOSE OUT TO HIS PR CHALLENGER. AT AVIGNON PS STANDARD BEARER TODDIS PROBABLY WILL KEEP THE SEAT FOR HIS PARTY NOTWITHSTANDING VERY STRONG RPR COMPETITION. AND, AT CARPENTRAS IT LOOKS LIKE THE PS WILL LOSE A SEAT TO THE RPR. SHOULD THIS SCENARIO OBTAIN, THE RESULT FOR THE 35 SEATS INVOLVED WOULD GIVE TWENTY SIX SEATS TO THE LEFT AND NINE TO THE RIGHT, REPRESENTING A MINOR RELATIVE GAIN FOR THE MAJORITE.

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5. AT THE FIVE REMAINING CITIES THE OUTLOOK IS COMPLETELY UNCERTAIN AND LAST MONDAY S MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT AMONG THE LEADERS OF THE LEFT WILL BE PUT TO THE TEST IN NEXT SUNDAY S RUNOFF. IN THREE CASES A PC CANDIDATE WILL FACE VERY HEAVY MAJORITE OPPOSITION AND THE PC S ABILITY TO WIN WILL DEPEND ENTIRELY ON THE DEGREE OF PS VOTER LOYALTY ACCORDED THE PC CANDIDATE AT THE POLLS, A LOYALTY WHICH IS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN. SHOULD THIS ALMOST COMPLETE PS SUPPORT FAIL TO MATERIALIZE, THE LEFT WILL LOSE ITS SEAT AT LA SEYNE (VAR) AND FAIL TO GAIN PRESENTLY PROMISING VICTORIES AT PERPIGNAN AND ORANGE. AT THE REMAINING TWO QUESTIONS MARKS, MONTPELLIER AND MILLAU, THE BATTLES ARE STRICTLY AMONG WELL KNOWN LOCAL PERSONALITIES AND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PRODUCE CONSIDERABLE FENCE-HOPPING BY VOTERS WITH FINAL WINS EXPECTED TO BE ON VERY NARROW MARGINS.

6. THESE OBSERVATIONS OF COURSE ARE MOST TENUOUS, BEING BASED ON THIN EVIDENCE, HUNCH, AND PURE GUESSWORK, AND SHOULD BE TAKEN AS SUCH. HOWEVER, CONSIDERING EVERYTHING, WE ESTIMATE THAHT THE SECOND ROUND WILL NOT REVEAL ANY SHARP TREND AWAY FROM THE PRE-ELECTION LINEUP OF SEATS BUT THAT THE RESULTS

WILL NOT FAVOR A FEW OF OUR BETTER KNOWN POLITICAL PERSONALITIES. THE VOTER TURNOUT IN THE DISTRICT LAST SUNDAY WAS 82 PER CENT COMPARED WITH A NATIONAL AVERAGE OF 83.3 PER CENT. IT WILL BE INTERESTED TO SEE WHETHER THE HIGH STAKES OF THE ELECTION WILL INCREASE NEXT SUNDAY'S PARTICIPATION AND HOW THAT IN TURN MAY INFLUENCE THE FINAL OUTCOME FOR OUR 40 SEATS. MEIMA.

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